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4 February 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: S. 2308, A Bill to Authorize and Direct the Investigation by the Attorney General for Certain Offenses

1. Mr. Jefferson D. Burrus, Bureau of the Budget, notified Mr. Pforzheimer that S. 2308 was on the calendar of the Judiciary Committee of the Senate. We expressed interest in the Bill and reservations as to its present wording, and Mr. Burrus invited us to be present at an informal meeting with the Judiciary staff to discuss the Bill. Mr. Collins, a Clerk of the Senate Judiciary Committee, called the meeting at 2 p.m. on 3 February. Present were Mr. Burrus, Bureau of the Budget; Mr. Carlock, representing Treasury; Mr. Stevens, Chief Inspector of the Post Office; Mr. Doyle, Post Office Solicitor; Mr. Pforzheimer; Mr. Houston.

2. Mr. Collins expressed the views of Senator Williams, who is the sponsor of this Bill, saying the Senator did not want to disturb existing practices but did want Justice to be able to step into any matter in any agency and to be able to get any information it desired from any agency. Mr. Collins informed us that the Committee Chairman, Mr. Langer, intended to proceed with this Bill and that he, Collins, would have no basis for recommending that it be held up for further discussion. He knew that there were serious reservations about the Bill and said he was holding the meeting so that those who had such reservations could plan to get them before the Committee. I pointed out that we did not in any way contest the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice in investigating criminal offenses and that we were specifically prohibited from anything in the nature of police or internal-security functions. I stated, however, that the Director's responsibility for protection of intelligence sources and methods raised certain practical problems which the proposed legislation if strictly construed would make very serious. I outlined some of the problems, stressing operational security and our present relations with the Department of Justice. All agreed that no one intended to impair our operational security and the proposed Bill would pose a definite problem in that respect.

3. After discussion of various solutions, it was agreed that Mr. Burrus would notify other agencies concerned and that we could present him with a statement of objections and proposed redrafts. On 4 February Mr. Pforzheimer spoke to Mr. Burrus, saying we had a statement and some amended language ready, and Mr. Burrus indicated that he was in no position to conduct a coordination for the Executive Branch on this legislation. Mr. Pforzheimer thereupon called Mr. Roger Jones, Bureau of the Budget, who expressed serious concern over the way this Bill had been handled and said he would look into the matter immediately. He advised us to take no further action until he had sounded out other agencies concerned and had made a plan for coordination.

S/
LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

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